



U.S. Army Environmental Center

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No.:746

For more information contact:

Robert DiMichele
Public Affairs Officer
(410) 436-2556 (office)
robert.dimichele@aec.apgea.army.mil

Army highlights top environmental programs

Washington, D.C. (April 1, 2003) --- As the Army defends our nation abroad, it is continuing to make strides in its missions at home. One of these missions supports endangered species protection, historic preservation, waste reduction, environmental restoration and pollution prevention. It is the mission of environmental stewardship, and several Army programs carried it out with excellence during the past year.

The Army recently named six installations and two teams as recipients of its highest honor for environmental stewardship, a Secretary of the Army Environmental Award.

These winning accomplishments include: returning a species of wild turkey to its historic habitat; restoring a World War II defense outpost in Alaska; preserving one of the oldest active military bases in Texas; reducing landfilled solid waste by 40 percent in California; and lowering pesticide use by 70 percent in Hohenfels, Germany.

Each year, professionals from around the world compete for Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards in natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration. Army winners go on to participate in the Department of Defense's Environmental Awards competition.

--MORE--

Award winners stand out as leading examples of how the Army invests in environmental stewardship on the 16.7 million acres of land it manages. Environmental stewardship plays a crucial role in the Army's readiness mission. The Army invests in environmental programs to move beyond mere compliance with regulations and sustain realistic training and testing capabilities in the most responsible ways possible. These investments have resulted in the safeguarding of some of the nation's most pristine and biologically diverse ecosystems and valued cultural sites.

Following are highlights from winning programs for each award category.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

[U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Ariz.](#)

- reintroducing the Gould's Wild Turkey to its historic habitat
- discovering rare barking frog populations
- reducing water use by nearly 50 percent since 1993

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Team

[Formerly Used Defense Sites project team, Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

- cleanup and restoration of Fort Tidball, a historically significant World War II defense outpost on the 1,320-acre atoll of Long Island (about 6 miles east of Kodiak Island)

Installation

[Texas Army National Guard](#)

- continued stewardship of three historical sites: the Camp Mabry Historic District, in Austin, which is Texas' third oldest active military installation and listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Camp Bowie (Burned Rock Middens) in Brownwood; and the Antoine Wine Cellar at Camp Swift near Bastrop, Texas

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

U.S. Installation

[Texas Army National Guard](#)

- substantially decreasing hazardous waste through reuse and recycling, including reducing waste from paint solvent by 136 percent and anti-freeze by 360 percent
- recovering 1,800 gallons of motor oil and 3,100 gallons of diesel fuel

Overseas Installation

[282nd Base Support Battalion, Hohenfels, Germany](#)

- opening a state-of-the-art hazardous waste control center
- collecting 3,358 tons of recyclables
- cutting the use of pesticides by 70 percent
- reducing sludge disposal by 80 percent

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Installation

[The National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Calif.](#)

- reducing waste going to landfills by 40 percent through recycling and composting
- saving 44 million gallons of water annually by modifying a reverse osmosis plant and a vehicle wash facility
- composting 60,000 cubic yards of wood pallets, ammo boxes, target scrap and yard waste

Team

[Pollution Prevention team, U.S. Forces Command Headquarters, Ga.](#)

- developing the Installation Sustainability Program, an Army-wide pollution prevention initiative to reduce constraints on military training, enhance the quality of life for soldiers and their families, and improve community relations; the program lays out a plan for installations to achieve a positive balance between military readiness and environmental stewardship.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa.

- accomplishments in the long-term cleanup of soil and groundwater at sites first used in the 1940s for the maintenance, modification, storage and demilitarization of vehicles, missiles and ammunition
- removal of 14,300 tons of contaminated soil from scrap yards, landfills and storage areas
- pursuit of advanced technologies to clean groundwater through three pilot programs that test the use of injecting hydrogen peroxide and other solutions into the groundwater's bedrock aquifer to identify contaminants and neutralize them.

For more information on these and other Army environmental programs, please contact the U.S. Army Environmental Center Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-2556.

--30--

The U.S. Army Environmental Center guides the Army's efforts to increase readiness, improve the well-being of our soldiers, and enhance community relationships through sound stewardship of the environment. Working through the Army headquarters' Director of Environmental Programs, the staff of the U.S. Army Environmental Center brings world-class expertise and innovative solutions to environmental stewardship challenges. As part of its mission, USAEC manages the Secretary of the Army Awards Program for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

For more information on the recipients of the 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards, please visit USAEC's Web site at <http://aec.army.mil/>.

"Preserving the Environment while Protecting Our Freedom"